



USAID | MACEDONIA
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PRESS RELEASE

U.S.-supported project assists more than 1,000 people from Macedonia's Roma community apply for citizenship

In cooperation with the Macedonian Ministry of the Interior, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has assisted 1,107 long-term residents of Macedonia's Roma community with their citizenship applications. The project was carried out in accordance with the Law on Citizenship and other applicable laws and regulations. USAID is a part of the U.S. Mission in Macedonia.

The citizenship initiative was implemented by the Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (CEELI), an international legal project affiliated with the American Bar Association, designed to assist stateless members of Macedonia's large Roma population, most of whom would otherwise have no access to the process of gaining citizenship and the potential advantages citizenship can offer them.

In partnership with local NGOs and volunteers, CEELI provided support for outreach, citizenship education, document collection, preparation of applications, and the necessary legal services and advice.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested more than \$450 million in Macedonia since 1993. More than 20 projects worth \$30 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia's transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>